

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A flexible shower arm assembly comprising:
 - a plurality of interconnected beads forming a flexible arm, each bead rotatable with respect to adjacent beads, the plurality of interconnected beads forming an axially extending bore having a longitudinal axis, and having a first end bead at a first end of the arm and a second end bead at a second end of the arm;
 - the first end bead having a connector end and a partially spherical opposing end, the partially spherical opposing end for connection to an adjacent bead;
 - a shower pipe connector nut defining an internal bore extending therethrough, and having a first end for fluid connection to a shower pipe, and a second end for connection to the connector end of the first end bead;
 - at least one internal stop located within the axially extending bore;
 - at least one internal stop abutment element located within the axially extending bore, the at least one stop abutment element contacting the at least one stop when the plurality of interconnected beads is twisted in such a manner as to alter the longitudinal axis; and
 - a flexible sheath covering the plurality of interconnected beads, an end of the sheath located between an interior surface of the second end of the shower pipe connector nut and an external surface of the first end bead.
2. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein the first end bead is threadedly connected to the second end of the shower pipe connector nut.
3. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of interconnected beads is connected to an adjacent bead via a snap-fit arrangement.
4. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein the first end of the shower pipe connector nut is internally threaded for connection to a shower pipe.
5. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein the second end of the second connector is internally threaded for connection to a shower pipe.
6. (Previously presented) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein:
 - the at least one internal stop is one of a plurality of internal stops;
 - the plurality of internal stops define a stop longitudinal axis; and

the stop longitudinal axis varies with the longitudinal axis of the flexible arm.

7. (Previously presented) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein:
the at least one internal stop is one of a plurality of internal stops; and
each of the plurality of internal stops comprises a formation of an interior wall of one of the plurality of interconnected beads.
8. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of internal stop abutment elements comprises an interior wall of one of the plurality of interconnected beads.
9. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, further comprising a flexible tube disposed within the axially extending bore.
10. (Previously presented) The shower arm assembly of claim 9, wherein the flexible tube is further disposed within the internal stop.
11. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 10, further comprising a grommet attaching the flexible tube to the shower pipe connector nut.
12. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 11, wherein the grommet compresses the flexible tube against an interior of the shower pipe connector nut.
13. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein the sheath comprises an external ribbed pattern.
14. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 13, wherein the external ribbed pattern comprises a continuous helix.
15. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 13, wherein the sheath is formed of plastic.
16. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 13, wherein:
the external ribbed pattern comprises a plurality of ribs; and
a portion of the sheath bounded by a first rib of the plurality of ribs and a second rib of the plurality of ribs compresses as the sheath is bent.

17. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 1, wherein the sheath comprises a shape nonconforming to the shape of the plurality of interconnected beads.
18. (Original) The shower arm assembly of claim 16, wherein the sheath is free to move in the direction of the longitudinal axis.
19. (Previously presented) A flexible shower arm assembly comprising:
 - a plurality of snap-fitted beads forming a flexible arm, each bead pivotable with respect to adjacent beads, the plurality of snap-fitted beads forming an axially extending bore having a longitudinal axis and varying in longitudinal cross-section as the flexible arm is bent, the plurality of snap-fitted beads having a first end bead at a first end of the arm and a second end bead at a second end of the arm;
 - the first end bead having a connector end and a partially spherical opposing end, the partially spherical opposing end for connection to an adjacent bead;
 - a shower pipe connector nut defining an internal bore extending therethrough, and having a first end for fluid connection to a shower pipe, and a second end for connection to the first end bead;
 - a flexible tube disposed within the axially extending bore;
 - a grommet compressing the flexible tube against an interior of the shower pipe connector nut;
 - at least one internal stop located within the axially extending bore and defining a stop longitudinal axis, the stop longitudinal axis varying with the longitudinal axis;
 - at least one internal stop abutment element located within the axially extending bore, at least one stop abutment element contacting at least one stop when the plurality of snap-fitted beads is twisted in such a manner as to alter the longitudinal axis; and
 - a flexible sheath covering the plurality of snap-fitted beads and having a lateral cross-section, the lateral cross-section of the flexible sheath differing at least in area from the lateral cross-section of the plurality of snap-fitted beads; and wherein the flexible sheath is free to move in the direction of the longitudinal axis.
20. (Currently Amended) The flexible shower arm assembly of claim 19, wherein:
 - each of the plurality of snap-fitted beads comprises a Polytetrafluoroethylene Teflon-impregnated thermoplastic; and

a first snap-fitted bead of the plurality of beads is frictionally connected to a second snap-fitted bead of the plurality of beads such that the first snap-fitted bead may be held in a pivoted position relative to the second snap-fitted bead.